

# Damp, timber decay & sustainability CONFERENCE



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SOUTH WEST BRANCH

2.00-3.45pm online on two consecutive Tuesdays:  
4 & 11 May

Free to IHBC members and heritage professionals

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For conservation professionals, the association of damp with timber decay needs no introduction. These are the familiar consequences of poor maintenance and ill-considered alterations. However, the need to reduce heat loss and carbon emissions is posing new challenges for the management of moisture in older buildings. A roof structure, for example, will become colder if heat leakage from the rooms below is reduced, leading to greater risk of condensation, mold growth and timber decay. Ventilation may not always be beneficial.

The aim of this conference is to review the science and technology and to explore best practice. The first session will focus on building environments, including Historic England's latest research. The second will examine the agents of decay and their effects on timber and other organic components. And the third will consider repair options where timber has decayed.



This is the second of two virtual conferences organised by the IHBC's South West branch with Historic England. The first, held last November, focussed on masonry structures. The Damp, Masonry Decay and Sustainability presentations can be found online [here](#).

[BOOK HERE](#)

(This link takes you through to Historic England's website)

## PROGRAMME

<b>PART 1 Tuesday, 4 May 2021</b>		
<b>2.00-3.45 PM BST</b>		
2.00pm	Welcome by the afternoon's chair, <b>Alison Henry</b> , Head of Building Conservation & Geospatial Survey, Historic England	
2.05	<b>Morwena Slade</b> , Historic England	<b>Retrofits and timber decay:</b> The impacts of retrofit measures on moisture levels in timber and an overview of recent Historic England research
2.30	<b>Dr Bill Bordass</b> , William Bordass Associates	<b>Moisture in timber roofs:</b> principles and effects of modern practices on moisture levels in timber roofs and floors
2.55	<b>Bob Hill</b> , Historic Buildings Advisory Service	<b>Buildings pathology:</b> investigating sources of moisture and recognising the evidence of fabric failures
3.20	Questions for the panel	
3.45pm	Close	

### Speaker information

**Morwenna Slade** is a chartered building surveyor and Head of Historic Building Climate Change Adaptation at Historic England. Before joining Historic England she worked for the National Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust.

**Dr Bill Bordass** is a research and policy advisor with a background in physical chemistry, building design and environmental engineering. He has particular interest in monitoring environmental and energy performance and occupant satisfaction, investigating technical problems, and using the results to inform briefing, design and management and in due course policy. He has worked on a number of projects for Historic England including roofspace environments, moisture, and the risks and benefits of energy retrofits.

**Bob Hill** is a chartered building surveyor and building archaeologist with over 50 years experience in this sector. He is a director of Historic Building Advisory Service, a specialist consultancy service providing professional advice and services to the owners of historic buildings and structures across the UK. He runs seminars and gives lectures on many aspects of the historic built environment and sits on several national committees, but is at heart a traditional and practical hands-on surveyor.

**PART 2 Tuesday, 11 May 2021****2.00-3.45 PM BST**

2.00pm	Welcome by the afternoon's chair, <b>Jonathan Taylor</b> , IHBC South West branch	
2.05	<b>Dr Joseph Bispham</b> , Heritage consultant	<i>Timber repairs</i> : principles, methods and the selection of materials
2.30	<b>Tim Floyd</b> , FloydConsult	<i>Are chemicals ever necessary?</i> An overview of treatment options and health/safety issues
2.55	<b>Tim Greensmith</b> , Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios	<i>Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings</i> : a case study focussing on the ethical issues around correcting original construction defects
3.20	Questions for the panel	
3.45pm	Close	

**Speaker information**

**Dr Joseph Bispham** served a five-year indentured apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. He has since built up a business specialising in the repair and conservation of historic timber buildings and is a member of the Institute of Materials. He runs historic joinery repair courses for the SPAB and others and is a member of the SPAB's technical panel.

**Tim Floyd** is a chartered building surveyor and architectural materials scientist, specialising in the scientific assessment of historic buildings and their environments. He is experienced in using a range of techniques to assess how the building envelope and its internal environment are affected by moisture.

**Tim Greensmith** is an architect at Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. Projects typically involve the conservation and creative reuse of major historic sites for leading heritage sector and commercial clients across the UK.